



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/835,237	04/13/2001	Robert Van Kommer	33226	6191

116 7590 04/20/2005

PEARNE & GORDON LLP
1801 EAST 9TH STREET
SUITE 1200
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108

EXAMINER

VO, HUYEN X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2655

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/835,237

Applicant(s)

KOMMER, ROBERT VAN

Examiner

Huyen Vo

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ~~1-51~~ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 9/23/2004 with respect to claims 1-51 have been considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the previous rejection has been withdrawn in favor of a ground of rejection.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "*said selections previously made by said users*" lacks antecedent basis. Examiner treats claim 14 being dependent on claim 13. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless – (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-5, 20-23, 27, 30-34, 44-47, 51(30-34), and 51(44-47) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lockwood (US 5576 951).

5. Regarding claims 1, 30, and 51(30), Lockwood discloses a voice portal hosting system, intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication network in order for

Art Unit: 2655

a plurality of users in said network to establish a connection with the system using voice equipment, said system comprising: a memory in which a plurality of interactive voice response applications is stored (*memory in figure 12 for storing audio-visual data sources, transitory data sources, and customer's profile*); and uploading means for independently uploading said plurality of interactive voice response applications through a second telecommunication network by a plurality of independent value-added service providers (*col. 19, lines 13-30 together with col. 20, lines 6-10, each independent service providers periodically send their service updates to the central hosting system*), wherein at least a plurality of said plurality of interactive voice response applications uses a common speech recognition module run on said system (*col. 17, lines 18-25, speech recognizer interprets input speech commands*).

6. Regarding claims 2-5, 31-34, and 51(31-34), Lockwood further discloses the voice portal hosting system, wherein said common speech recognition module comprises a common user profile database (*element 223 in figure 12*), and wherein said common user profile database includes user preferences (*element 223 in figure 12*), and wherein said user preferences include a delivery address for goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service providers (*element 223 in figure 12 and/or col. 21, lines 59-67*), and wherein said user preferences include a billing address and/or preferences for goods and services ordered with said value-added service providers (*element 223 in figure 12 and/or col. 21, lines 59-67*).

7. Regarding claims 20-23, 44-47, and 51(44-47), Lockwood further discloses the voice portal hosting system, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice response applications use a common billing module and a common clearing center for dispatching the collected amounts to said value-added service providers (*referring to figures 13-16 and/or col. 21, line 25 to col. 23, line 13*), wherein said common billing module allows for the billing of transactions between said users and said value-added service providers on a common bill prepared by the operator of said voice portal hosting system (*referring to figures 13-16 and/or col. 21, line 25 to col. 23, line 13*), and wherein at least a plurality of said users have a deposit account on said voice portal hosting system which can be used for transactions with a plurality of said value-added service providers (*referring to figures 13-16 and/or col. 21, line 25 to col. 23, line 13*), and wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice response applications use a user authentication module based on an electronic signature and/or on biometric parameters of said users (*col. 19, lines 46-49*).

8. Regarding claim 27, Lockwood further discloses the voice portal hosting system of claim 1, wherein at least one free interactive voice response application is made available by the operator of said system (*figure 12, user's input speech commands*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2655

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 6-12, 15, 18-19, 29, 35-39, 42-43, 50, 51(35-39), 51(42-43), and 51(50) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockwood (US 5576 951) in view of Maes (US 6073101).

11. Regarding claims 29, 50, and 51(50), Lockwood discloses a voice portal hosting system, intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication network in order for a plurality of users in said network to establish a connection with said system using a voice equipment (*figure 12*), said system comprising a memory (*memory in figure 12 for storing audio-visual data sources, transitory data sources, and customer's profile*) in which a plurality of interactive voice response applications have been independently uploaded through a second telecommunication network by a plurality of independent value-added service providers (*col. 19, lines 13-30 together with col. 20, lines 6-10, each independent service providers periodically send their service updates to the central hosting system*), wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice response applications uses a common speech recognition module run on said system (*col. 17, lines 18-25, speech recognizer interprets input speech commands*), wherein said common speech recognition module comprises a common user profile database including user preferences (*element 223 in figure 12*).

Lockwood fails to specifically disclose that common speech recognition module further uses common user-specific speech models, wherein said system further comprises means for adapting said common speech models associated to a user during each dialogue between said user and each of said interactive voice response applications. However, Maes teaches a common speech recognition module further uses common user-specific speech models (*col. 6, line 47 to col. 7, line 10*), wherein said system further comprises means for adapting said common speech models associated to a user during each dialogue between said user and each of said interactive voice response applications (*col. 5, lines 1 to col. 6, line 67*).

Since Lockwood and Maes are analogous art because they are from the same endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Lockwood by incorporating the teaching of Maes in order to improve speech recognition accuracy.

12. Regarding claims 6-8, 35-36, and 51(35-36), Lockwood fails to specifically disclose the voice portal hosting system, wherein said common speech recognition module uses user-specific speech models, means for adapting said common speech models associated to a user during each dialogue between said user and each of said interactive voice response applications, and wherein said means for adapting said common speech models uses recorded users' speech samples for adapting said common speech models off-line. However, Maes teaches speech recognition module using user-specific speech models (*col. 6, line 47 to col. 7, line 10*), means for adapting

Art Unit: 2655

said common speech models associated to a user during each dialogue between said user and each of said interactive voice response applications (*col. 5, lines 1 to col. 6, line 67*), and wherein said means for adapting said common speech models uses recorded users' speech samples for adapting said common speech models off-line (*col. 5, lines 1 to col. 6, line 67*).

Since Lockwood and Maes are analogous art because they are from the same endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Lockwood by incorporating the teaching of Maes in order to improve speech recognition accuracy.

13. Regarding claims 9-10, Lockwood fails to specifically disclose the voice portal hosting system of claim 1, wherein said common speech recognition module uses Hidden Markov Models, and further comprising a Hidden Markov Models adaptation module for adapting said models to said user, and wherein said Hidden Markov Models adaptation module allows for an incremental adaptation of said models. However, Maes teaches a common speech recognition module uses Hidden Markov Models, and further comprising a Hidden Markov Models adaptation module for adapting said models to said user (*col. 6, lines 40-60*), and wherein said Hidden Markov Models adaptation module allows for an incremental adaptation of said models (*col. 5, lines 1 to col. 6, line 67*).

Since Lockwood and Maes are analogous art because they are from the same endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

Art Unit: 2655

invention to modify Lockwood by incorporating the teaching of Maes in order to improve speech recognition accuracy.

14. Regarding claims 11-12, 37-38, and 51(37-38), Lockwood fails to specifically disclose the voice portal hosting system, wherein said common speech recognition module uses user-specific language models, and means for adapting said common language models associated to a user during each dialogue between said user and each of said interactive voice response applications. However, Maes teaches a common speech recognition module uses user-specific language models (*col. 5, lines 1 to col. 6, line 67*), and means for adapting said common language models associated to a user during each dialogue between said user and each of said interactive voice response applications (*col. 5, lines 1 to col. 6, line 67*).

Since Lockwood and Maes are analogous art because they are from the same endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Lockwood by incorporating the teaching of Maes in order to improve speech recognition accuracy.

15. Regarding claims 15, 18-19, 39, 42-43, 51(39), and 51(42-43), Lockwood fails to specifically disclose the voice portal hosting system, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice response applications use a common user identification module run on said system, wherein said user identification module uses a voice-based user identification module, wherein said common speech recognition module uses a

Art Unit: 2655

speaker-dependant speech recognition algorithm, and wherein said speaker is identified by said common user identification module. However, Maes further teaches that at least a plurality of said interactive voice response applications use a common user identification module run on said system, wherein said user identification module uses a voice-based user identification module, wherein said common speech recognition module uses a speaker-dependant speech recognition algorithm, and wherein said speaker is identified by said common user identification module (*referring to the operation of figure 1 and/or col. 5, line 1 to col. 6, line 67*).

Since Lockwood and Maes are analogous art because they are from the same endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Lockwood by incorporating the teaching of Maes in order to identify the user and the user's profile for used by the speech recognition to improve speech recognition accuracy.

16. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockwood (US 5576951) in view Beyda et al. (US 6487277).

17. Regarding claims 13-14, Lockwood fails to specifically disclose a voice portal hosting system of claim 1, wherein said common speech recognition module uses selections previously made by said users, and wherein said selections previously made by said users are stored in said voice portal hosting system for improving the arborescence of the menus. However, Beyda et al. teach common speech recognition

Art Unit: 2655

module uses selections previously made by said users, and wherein said selections previously made by said users are stored in said voice portal hosting system for improving the arborescence of the menus (*see abstract*).

Since Lockwood and Beyda et al. are analogous art because they are from the same endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Lockwood by incorporating the teaching of Beyda et al. in order to tailor the presentation order to the needs of each individual user to improve system's efficiency.

18. Claims 24-26, 28, 48-49, and 51(48-49) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockwood (US 5576951).

19. Regarding claims 24-25, 48, and 51(48) Lockwood further discloses a first and second telecommunication networks (*figure 12*), but fails to specifically disclose the voice portal hosting system of claim 1, wherein said second telecommunication network is a TCP/IP network, wherein at least some of said interactive voice response applications are described with Voice extensible Markup Language documents. However, TCP/IP network and VoiceXML are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include TCP/IP network and VoiceXML in the teaching of Lockwood to improve telecommunication efficiency.

20. Regarding claims 26, 49, and 51(49), Lockwood further discloses the voice portal hosting system of claim 25, wherein a compilation module run on said system compiles said interactive voice response applications (*the operation of figure 12*).

21. Regarding claim 28, Lockwood fails to specifically disclose that the voice portal hosting system of claim 27, wherein said free interactive voice response application includes a free directory assistance service. However, the examiner takes official notice that voice directory assistance service is well known in the art. The advantage of the service is to enable a remote user to locate and/or reach a particular called person with the help of the voice directory assistance service.

22. Claims 16-17, 40-41, 51(40-41) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockwood (US 5576 951) in view of Woods et al. (US 6510417).

23. Regarding claims 16-17, 40-41, and 51(40-41), Lockwood fails to specifically disclose that the user identification module uses an identification of the equipment used by said user in said first telecommunication network, and being operated by a telecom operator of said first telecommunication network, wherein said user identification module uses an identification of the equipment used by said user in said first telecommunication network even when said identification is not available for the other B-subscribers of said first telecommunication network. However, Woods et al. teach that the user identification module uses an identification of the equipment used by said

Art Unit: 2655

user in said first telecommunication network, and being operated by a telecom operator of said first telecommunication network, wherein said user identification module uses an identification of the equipment used by said user in said first telecommunication network even when said identification is not available for the other B-subscribers of said first telecommunication network (*col. 24, lines 39-41*).

Since Lockwood and Woods et al. are analogous art because they are from the same endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Lockwood by incorporating the teaching of Woods et al. in order to allow the system to automatically authenticate users based on their phone numbers by using caller-ID procedure.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen Vo whose telephone number is 703-305-8665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2655

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HXV

April 14, 2005


SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER